ANAMALAIS-CHALAKKUDI ROAD—PROGRESS OF WORK

103. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the construction of the Anamalais-Chalakkudi road and when it is expected to be completed and at what cost ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Work in the first section of the road is in progress. Earthwork on 12½ miles out of 21 miles in this section has been completed and the construction of bridges and culverts for the first five miles is nearing completion. Metalling of the first five miles is in progress. The contract for the construction of bridges and culverts and metalling from the fifth to the tenth mile is being awarded. Due to the uncertainty of labour conditions, it is not possible to state now what the work will eventually cost. The exact time of completion also cannot now be estimated due to these reasons.

CUT MOTION No. 49—*(cont.)*

Ward elections for Panchayats

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The principle underlying the cut motion can be accepted by the Government, but in the practical working as the Hon'ble House is aware there will be some difficulties in the allocation of these wards. I think this has to be gone into in detail. I cannot all on a sudden give an assurance that this can be finally accepted and adopted by the Government. For instance in Mulanthuruthi, that particular Panchayat, there is only one village and five members. It is very easy to divide it into 5 wards. In some other Panchayats consisting of three villages may contain seven members, five elected and two nominated. Incidently the other question also crops up, the reservation of seats and doing away with nomination. All these questions will have to be gone into and it is engaging my attention.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Why not bring a Panchayat Bill ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. Government is contemplating and I think we will be able to introduce that bill in the very near future and this question is being considered; but no assurance can be given.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the number of electors in the Mulanthuruthi Panchayat ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have not got a Census of that particular area. I want notice.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I am glad to find that the Government are proposing to go into the whole question and to bring a bill, if necessary. In view of that assurance, I beg leave to withdraw the motion

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 50

Partiality shown to the Village of the Minister and the villages in his constituency

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I rise to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,993 for Village Panchayats Establishment by Re. 1 to bring to the notice of the House the partiality shown to the Village of the Minister and the villages in his constituencies.* Sir, a litte mathematics will be very interesting and we are now discussing the Minister's administration. I suppose the House will eagerly await the disclosures I am going to make. Last year the total amount was 1,70,000 rupees. For the Talappalli Taluk, the Minister's Taluk, the amount appropriated was Rs. 51,200, for his constituency Rs. 23,250 and for Pazhayannur Rs. 9,000. This year the total allotment is Rs. 1,85,000. Talappalli Taluk gets Rs. 55,000, the Minister's constituency, Rs. 21,200 and Pazhayannur gets Rs. 12,000. The totals for both the years' lump sum amount for minor irrigation is Rs. 3,55,000, Talappalli Taluk gets Rs. 1,09,000 rupees the Minister's constituency, Rs. 44,000 and Pazhayannur Village alone Rs. 21,000.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* But still it is my constituency.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* On a closer analysis, you find that 1/3 of the total allotment for the 7 taluks, namely a lkah of rupees has been allotted for Talappalli Taluk. Now coming to his constituency—there are, 38 constituencies in the State, out of which 8 may be

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